



United States Department of the Interior
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Hagerman National Fish Hatchery
3059D National Fish Hatchery Road
Hagerman, ID 83332



MEMORANDUM

April 9, 2004

TO: ARD-Fisheries Attn: Rich Johnson, Field Supervisor

FROM: Project Leader, Hagerman NFH

SUBJECT: March Activity Report

PRODUCTION

Steelhead Brood Year 2003

Lot Number	Stock	Number	Total Fish Weight	Size (#/lb)	Length (inches)
100	Clearwater B	203,789	43,012	4.7	8.29
101	Pahsimeroi	121,495	28,927	4.2	8.63
102	Sawtooth	915,853	193,455	4.7	8.29

Kathy Clemens, Idaho Fish Health Center, conducted pre-liberation fish health exams on March 12-13. She also obtained fish tissue samples for contaminant analysis. Distribution commenced March 29, 2004. A total of 89,176 Pahsimeroi summer steelhead smolts were released during the month. Regular HACCP Plan monitoring revealed two empty NZMS shells in the stomachs of steelhead from the upper deck. These were the first snail parts to be documented in stomachs of steelhead at Hagerman NFH. It is uncertain if the snails were consumed as live snails and then digested or as empty shells. Regular monitoring will continue in April. Length frequencies and non-ad clip fin quality checks were performed during the month and will continue during April.

Rainbow Trout (Dworshak Reservoir Mitigation)

Lot Number	Stock	Number	Total Fish Weight	Size (#/lb)	Length (inches)
103	Hayspur Triploid Rainbows	118,611	2238	53	3.61
104	Hayspur Triploid Rainbows	71,942	364	183	2.33

Both rainbow trout lots (triploid) are performing well and mortalities are low. Lot 104 was split from five tanks to twelve tanks in Hatchery #1 to reduce densities. A weight inventory was taken during splitting and we have 2,000 more fish than the original inventory numbers.

OPERATIONS

The Hagerman NFH Hatchery Evaluation Team submitted its Comprehensive Hatchery Management Plan to Rich Johnson, Region 1, Hatchery Supervisor.

On March 10 Randy Schmeller, Region 1 Engineering, Bryan Kenworthy, Hatchery manager, and Steve Money, Maintenance Mechanic, met at the Hatchery with Jeff Rau, Brockway Engineering, to conduct the 60% plan completion review for the Spring 13 Water line and the Brailsford Intake Flume Projects. During the visit Randy also reviewed the progress of the University of Idaho projects currently underway which are to provide a new access road to the Hagerman Fish Culture Experiment Station and to remove them from water and sewer services now provided by the Hatchery.

During March, Bryan Kenworthy and Kurt Schilling, Assistant Hatchery Manager, worked closely with the Region 1 Engineering - Division of Water Resources, Fisheries, LSRCP Office, and the Office of the Regional Solicitor to track water issues relevant to the depleted status of the Eastern Snake River Plain Aquifer (Aquifer) and its affect on the Hatchery's water rights. Several "calls on water" to the Idaho Department of Water Resources by large commercial fish hatcheries in the Hagerman area, having senior water rights to groundwater pumpers upstream on the Aquifer, forced an eleventh hour effort by the state legislature, Governor's office, water users and others to reach a one year interim agreement for water management. The agreement will be in effect until March 2005. Developed to avoid lengthy litigation and economic chaos in the southern Idaho agriculture industry, the agreement describes an extensive list of actions to be taken by the participants and provides funding to the private sector and relevant state agencies to develop short and long term solutions to resolve the decline in the Aquifer. Similar to the commercial hatcheries, the Hagerman National Fish Hatchery has identified a number of its water rights being injured. Although not signatory to the agreement, the Fish and Wildlife Service will evaluate progress of the proposed action plans to determine if planned outcomes provide a benefit to the Hatchery's diminished spring flows.

Mark Olson, Staff Biologist, developed and submitted the *Notice of Intent*, requested by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to extend authorization to continue to discharge under the National Pollution Discharge Permit issued in 1999. EPA issues these permits on a five year basis; however, they informed the Idaho Aquaculture community that they will be unable to reissue the permit prior to its expiration date in September this year.

COORDINATION

Lance Roberts, Zone Fire Management Officer Southern Idaho, met with Bryan Kenworthy to discuss wildland /urban interface (WUI) fuels reduction projects. Two projects identified include removal of dead and down snags on the hillside northeast of the Trout Raceways burned during the Oster lakes Fire, and the north boundary fence line east of the Hatchery's entrance road. Lance plans to bring his fire crew to the Hatchery in June to clear the fence line. The adjacent land owner granted permission to cross her property for access to the fence line. Insufficient funding is available for all of the Southern Idaho WUI projects, putting the hillside project on hold.

Bryan Kenworthy attended a briefing at the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Shoshone, Idaho Fire Center regarding BLM's role in implementing the National Fire Plan.

Steve Money participated in the Region 1 Wage Grade Committee conference call regarding wage grade position classification review, animal caretaker and bio-tech outsourcing study, heavy equipment training and the wage grade coordinator position. The Geographic area representatives also elected a team leader and now have monthly conference calls to discuss progress.

Anna Ray, Fisheries Program Assistant, began participating as a mentor for implementation of the IDEA procurement system.

On March 10, Bryan Kenworthy attended the Idaho Aquaculture Association board of director's meeting.

PERSONNEL/ TRAINING/ SAFETY

Scott Stockham, Gooding County EMS technician, provided the Hatchery Staff a First Aide and CPR refresher course.

Bryan Kenworthy, Kurt Schilling, & Anna Ray attended IDEAS-PD training at the National Parks Service, Hagerman Fossil Beds Monument in Hagerman.

Bryan Kenworthy and Anna Ray attended the Region 1, Budget and Finance Administrative Workshop held in Portland March 30 through April 1.

Brian Clifford, Motor Vehicle Operator, conducted a driver's orientation with the contract drivers in preparation for steelhead distribution.

OUTREACH

On March 13, the Hatchery hosted a Boy Scout Troop (15 strong) from the Caldwell, Idaho area.

A Total of 342 Visitors signed the guest book

OSTER LAKE FIRE - BURNED AREA EMERGENCY REHABILITATION PLAN

BLM, Vale, Oregon picked up the range land drill they had let us borrow for the additional seeding done for the Burned Area Emergency Restoration Plan

MAINTENANCE

Vehicles and Equipment

- Excess Chevrolet 4x2 pickup truck was sold this month.
- Brian Clifford picked up the rental tractor for steelhead distribution.
- The Hatchery replaced the sensor cable to the Off-line Settling basin flow meter due to damage from a muskrat chewing through the line. The vendor assisted Hatchery staff in installation and meter calibration.
- A local vendor serviced the water chiller in preparation for fish distribution.
- Life support and alarm systems were tested on all three fish hauling transports.
- Brake systems were lubed and running gear inspected on fish transports.
- Information was obtained on replacement portable generators for fish transports.

Buildings and Grounds

- As the Idaho weather rapidly turned from mud season to drought, the hatchery staff began efforts to ready the lawn irrigation system for operation.
- Replaced broken valve on lawn irrigation system.
- Quarters safety inspections were completed.

cc: LSRCP - Boise
Idaho FRO
Hagerman NFH Staff
Dworshak NFH
Idaho FHC
Chris Harrington- IDFG Nampa

Tom Rogers - IDFG
IDFG Hatcheries-Magic Valley, Niagara
Springs